

**State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation**

WHEREAS, Vermont recognizes the value and capabilities of its workforce, and has a strong commitment to equal opportunity for all, regardless of disability, race, color, gender, age, sexual orientation, religion or national origin; and

WHEREAS, there are over 50,000 Vermonters with disabilities who remain under-employed or unemployed and Vermont recognizes the need to continue to expand employment opportunities that will benefit both the business community and employees with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the State of Vermont, its people, and its economy benefit when Vermonters of all abilities have the opportunity to contribute their skills, talents, and gifts as part of Vermont's workforce; and

WHEREAS, workplaces welcoming of the talents of all people, including people with disabilities, are a critical part of our efforts to build an inclusive community and strong economy; and

WHEREAS, in this spirit, the State of Vermont recognizes National Disability Employment Awareness Month and the work of the Governor's Committee on the Employment of People with Disabilities to raise awareness about disability employment issues and to celebrate the many and varied contributions of people with disabilities to our workplaces and communities and affirm Vermont's commitment to an inclusive community;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Peter E. Shumlin, Governor, do hereby proclaim October, 2016 as

DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

in Vermont, and call upon employers, schools and other community organizations to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities, and to advance its important message that "Hiring Vermonters with disabilities is not just the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do," throughout the year.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 27th day of September, A.D. 2016

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'P' followed by a long horizontal line.

Peter Shumlin
Governor

